

متحف الفن الإسلامي

MUSEUM OF ISLAMIC ART

Visitor's Pack

Museum of Islamic Art

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Welcome

Name :______________________________

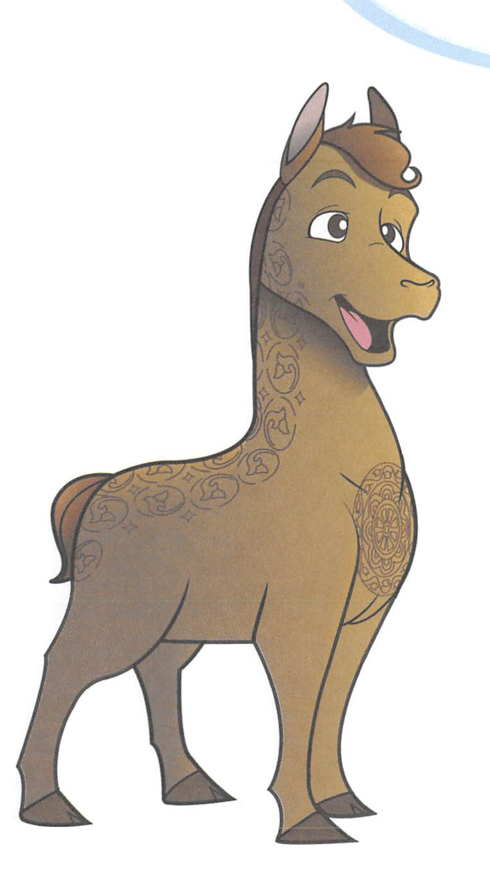
Age :______________________________

School :______________________________



Welcome to the Museum of Islamic Art.

I'm Jameela
and I will be your guide
today. Let's explore the
Museum together!



Museums are very special places where objects belonging to different cultures are cared for and displayed. Museums are open to anyone who wants to learn and enjoy themselves.

When visiting a museum always remember:

- Go to the cloakroom at the entrance to leave any heavy bags or buggies that may interfere with your visit
- Go to the information desk and ask about the different exhibitions and for a map of the Museum so you can plan your visit
- If you have come with your family, friends or school, it is important to arrange a meeting point in case anyone gets lost. The information desk is the best place for this.
- It is important to respect the other visitors in the museum, so loud talking, using mobile phones and running in the galleries is not permitted
- Always remember to respect the building and the artefacts in it. It is forbidden to touch any of the objects. Drinking and eating in the galleries is not allowed.

Find the Hidden Words

A	G	Y	C	E	A	I	G	Y	E
M	U	W	R	I	D	I	X	X	A
S	S	D	Q	E	F	I	H	N	R
V	H	H	I	T	L	I	U	P	T
C	W	O	S	O	B	L	A	G	E
Y	Q	H	W	I	G	M	A	H	F
Q	O	S	T	C	R	U	H	G	A
P	O	I	M	U	A	M	I	N	C
W	O	D	O	H	Y	S	A	D	T
N	O	T	Q	L	I	K	E	U	E

ARTEFACT
AUDIOGUIDE
EXHIBITION
GALLERY
GIFTSHOP
GUIDE
SHOWCASE
TOURMAP



Islamic art is a broad concept. It covers different art forms that were made in lands under Islamic rule. Islam first appeared in the Arabian Peninsula in the 7th century AD. Since then, different leaders have conquered lands from India to Spain in the name of Islam. Islamic art emerged as a distinctive art form influenced by the many different cultures that contributed to its development.

The artefacts displayed at the Museum of Islamic Art are mainly practical everyday objects. You will see bowls, dishes, ewers, incense burners, candlesticks, carpets, jewellery, doors, books and tiles. These artefacts tell the story of the cultures that created them. Let's explore the Museum's galleries together!

Find the Different Materials Used in Islamic Art

F	A	X	G	N	Q	L	E	R	J	L	O	O	W
E	R	G	O	L	D	R	L	L	E	A	R	L	L
B	A	I	A	D	A	A	I	Z	O	P	D	B	M
N	U	R	T	T	R	E	T	U	M	I	A	E	O
G	G	X	T	W	E	P	X	V	N	S	B	P	V
E	H	A	E	H	A	S	E	S	I	L	V	E	R
I	U	M	J	N	E	R	T	F	G	A	E	E	U
V	I	K	Y	Z	X	N	E	B	N	Z	J	U	B
A	F	A	N	G	J	I	W	L	T	U	B	I	Y
I	L	O	L	S	T	V	I	O	O	L	R	Q	H
C	R	A	I	W	J	E	A	Y	O	I	A	P	I
B	S	L	A	Y	R	O	V	I	P	D	S	T	B
S	K	R	C	I	M	A	R	E	C	N	S	B	T

AGATE
BRASS
BRONZE
CERAMIC
CLAY
FRITWARE
GLASS
GOLD
IVORY
JADE
LAPISLAZULI
PAPER
PEARL
RUBY
SILK
SILVER
TEXTILE
WOOD

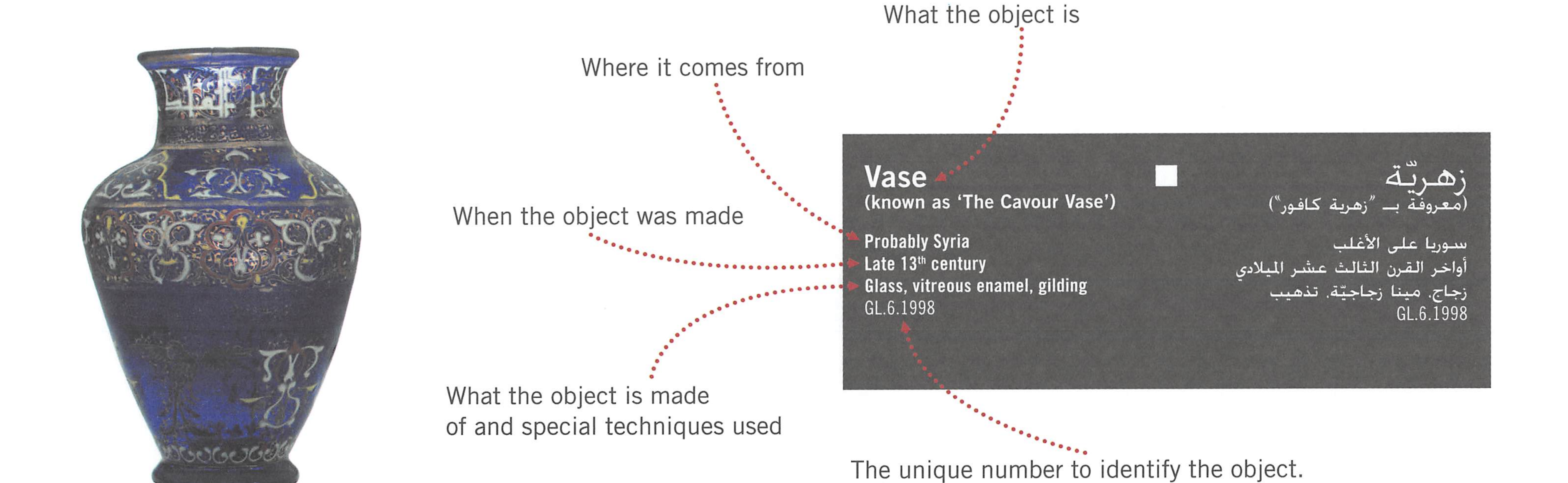
How to Read Labels

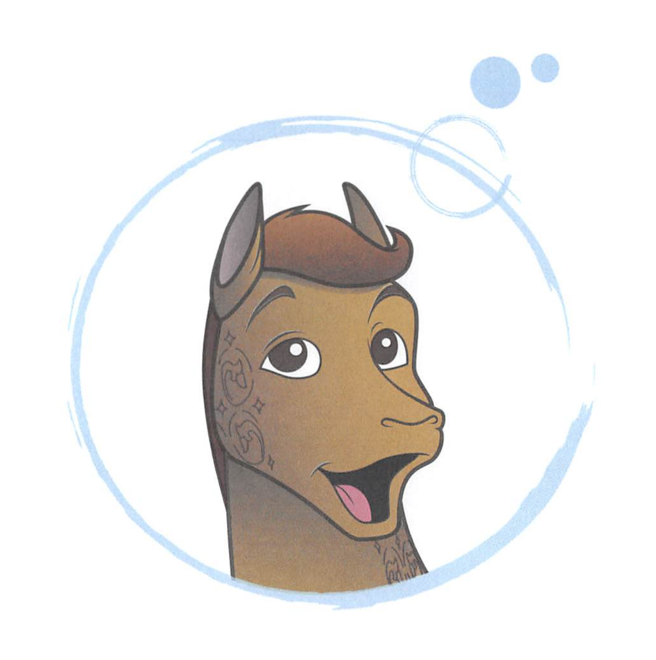
During your visit you will notice that there are two different types of labels in the galleries

1. The wall texts give you an introduction to the gallery exhibits and can be found at the entrance of each gallery.
2. The object labels are placed near the objects and offer the visitors important facts about the object's origin, name and materials used.

How to read an object label

Once you know how to read a museum label, you can learn a lot about the artefacts on display





Read the wall text and object labels

Each gallery has a wall text that explains the purpose of the exhibition. The object labels offer basic information about the items on display. Read them to learn more about what you are looking at. Think about what each object is used for.

Observe

The objects in the galleries are displayed in a particular way. What do you think the objects have in common?

How do they differ from other galleries?

Listen

While visiting the museum you may like to borrow an audio-guide or enjoy a guided tour to learn more about the objects.

Ask Questions

Think about why the objects were made and about the people who used them. Try to discuss this with others.

Take Notes

Whilst visiting the galleries, take notes and draw the artefacts that you find interesting. You will find blank pages at the back of this booklet.

Go To Gallery 1: Islamic Art

Draw the patterns

In this gallery you will find artefacts made of different materials including textiles, metalwork, glass, ceramics and paper. This gallery is an introduction to the different types of objects you will see in the Museum. It has artworks from all over the Islamic world. It also shows the decorative patterns generally used in Islamic art that will be explained in detail in the following galleries. Examples of these are calligraphy, floral, figural and geometric patterns.



This textile is decorated with calligraphic designs and flowers. Choose one of your favourite patterns and copy it below.

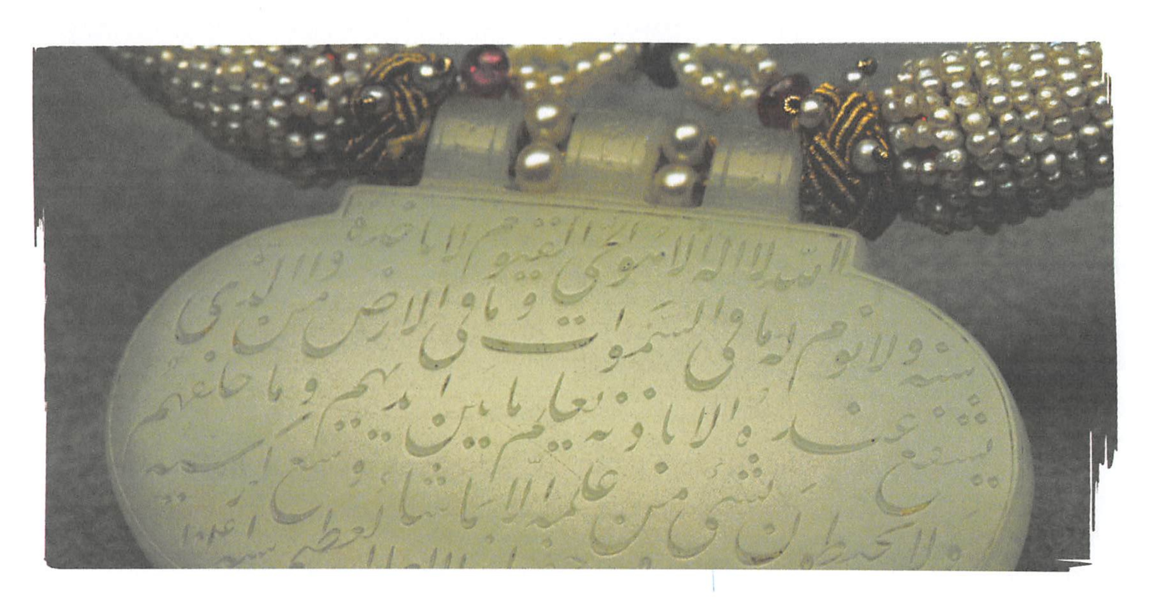
Curtain with inscriptions

Spain
15th century
Silk
TE.6.1999

Find and Copy

Find this object and copy its label into the box below

This pendant belonged to the Emperor Shah Jahan. It was used as an amulet to help him with his grief after the loss of his beloved wife. Her name was Mumtaz Mahal, and she died in 1631. He wore this pendant next to his heart whilst building one of the world's most famous buildings, her tomb: the Taj Mahal.

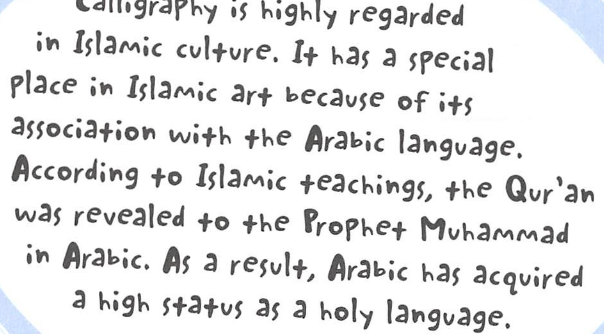


Label:

Go To Gallery 2: Calligraphy

Find a large Qur'an page next to a tiny one

This is a script called Muhaqqaq. It is similar to the Thuluth script but its horizontal lines are wider.





Look for a large Qur'an and a blue one in this gallery. Copy their labels into the boxes below.

What is this object made of?

Copy a section of this Qur'an page below


Page from colossal Qur'an

Calligraphy by Umar-I-Aqta
Central Asia
c.1400-1430
Ink and gold on paper
MS.119.2007

Copy a section of the Qur'an



The Chinese created paper in the 2nd century BC and it was introduced to Central Asia in the 8th century through trade and commerce. Before the arrival of paper, parchment was used to produce books and Qur'ans. Parchment is a thin layer of sheep or goat skin.

This is an early calligraphic script called Kufic. You can recognise it by its sharp angles and lines.

What is this object made of?

____

Copy a section of this Qur'an page below

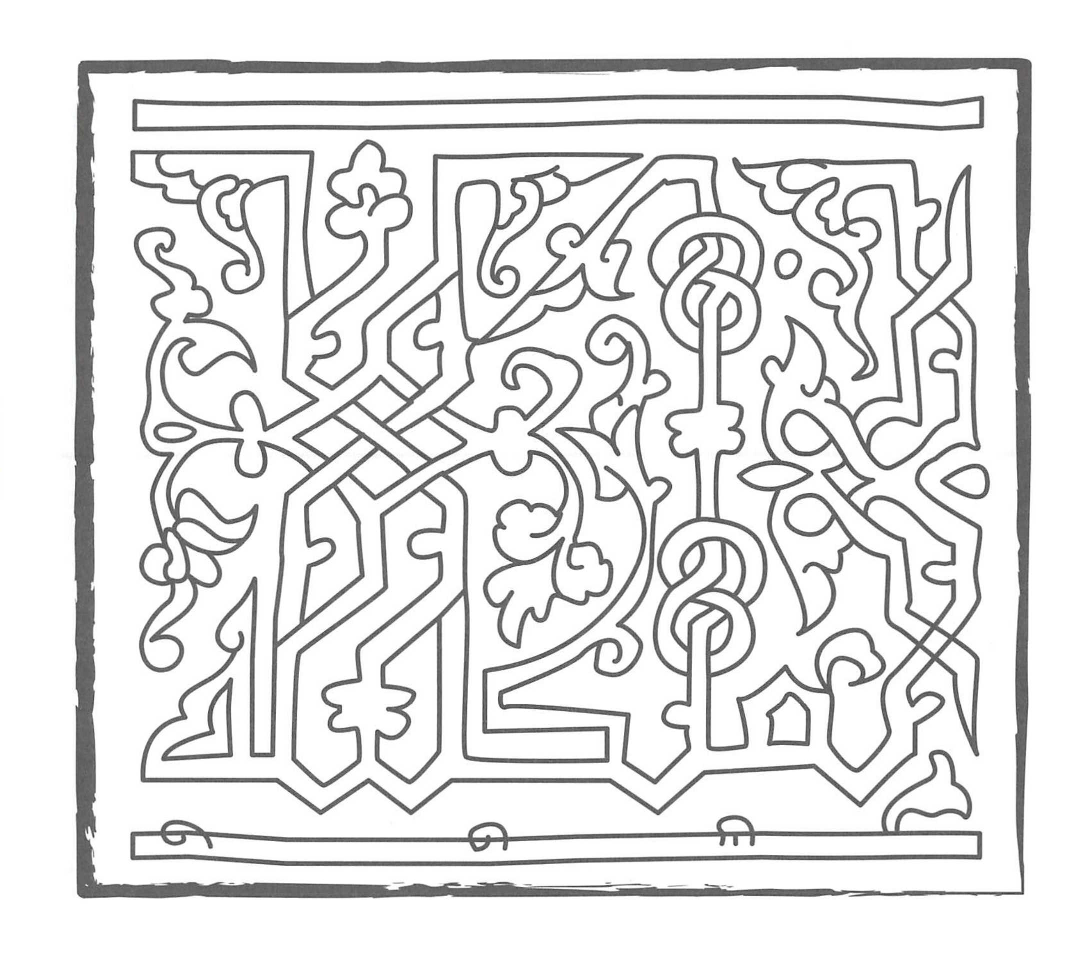
Blue Qur'an page

North Africa or Southern Spain
9th-10th century
Gold ink on dyed parchment
MS.8.2006

Go To Gallery 3: Writing In Art

Colour in

Calligraphy is the art of beautiful writing and is widely used in Islamic art. Calligraphers developed various styles of writing such as Kufic, Thuluth and Naskh among others. Inscriptions in Arabic were believed to make objects precious. They were used on wood, glass, metalwork, textiles and ceramics for decorative as well as for religious purposes.





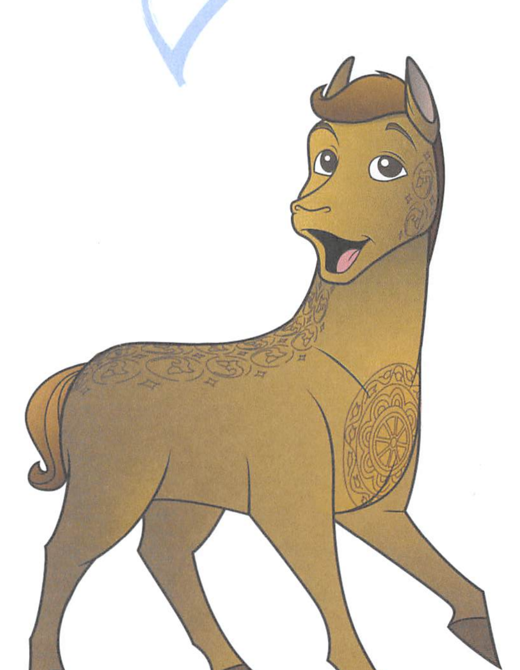
Inscription tile

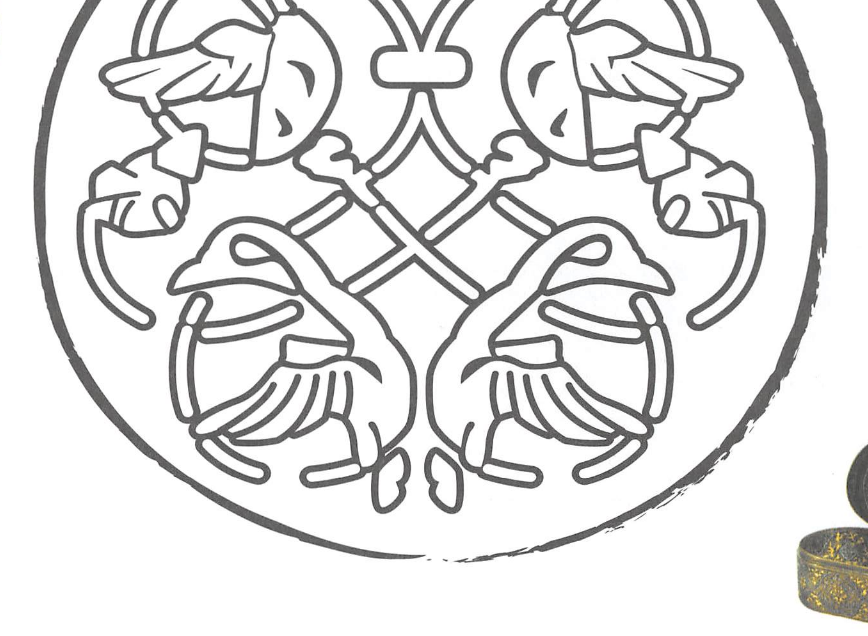
Central Asia
Late 14th - early 15th century
Fritware, coloured glazes
PO.421.2004

Colour In

Penboxes were one of the most important tools belonging to a calligrapher. They were usually beautifully decorated, and this one even has a removable inkwell.

This is a palette made of ivory. Palettes like this one were used to cut the nib of the qalam, or reed pen, into the required shape.



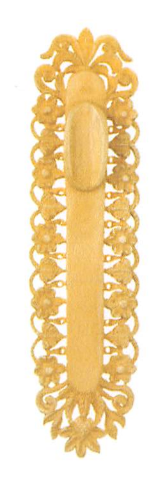






Pen box

Western Iran
1262-1284
Brass, gold and silver inlay
MW.221. 2003



Pen-cutting slab

Turkey
18-19th century
Ivory
IV.56.2000

Go To Galleries 4-5: The Figure In Art

Spot the difference

This textile illustrates a secret meeting from the tragic love story of Leila and Majnun. This is a famous Middle Eastern tale that inspired the story of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.



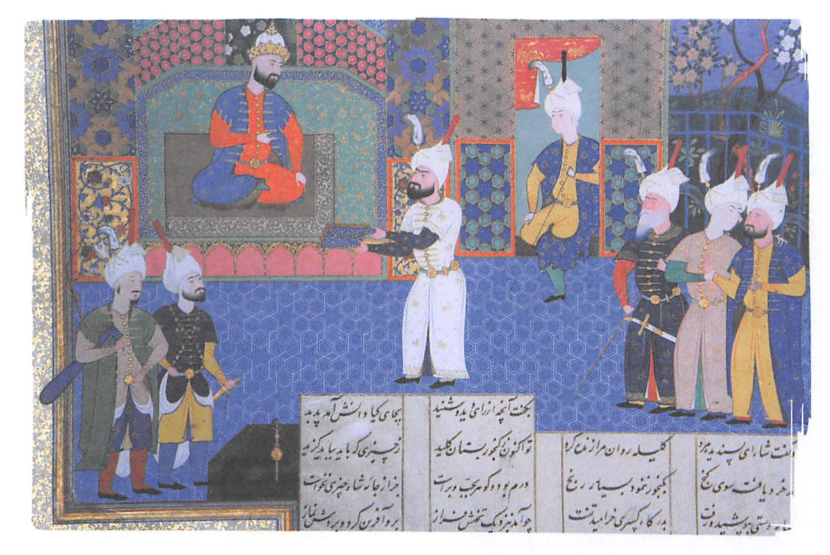


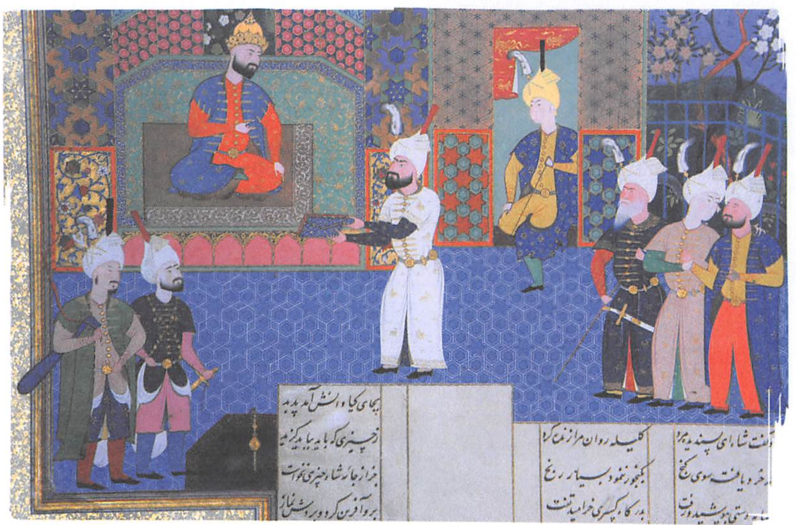
The representation of human beings and animals is not allowed in religious contexts, such as in the Qur'an and in mosques. However, many examples of the figure (both human and animal) appear in everyday objects throughout the Islamic world. Figural representations were used to decorate manuscripts, textiles, metalwork and ceramics.

Leila and Majnun carpet

Iran (probably Kashan)
Late 16th - early 17th century
Silk tapestry
CA.1.1997

Spot the Difference





This is an illustrated page from the Shahnama belonging to the Emperor Shah Tahmasp. The Shahnama or the "Book of Kings," is a famous Persian book, telling the history and legends of Ancient Persia.

Burzuy presents 'Kalilah wa Dimnah' to King Nushirvan

Illustration from a Shahnama belonging to Shah Tahmasp

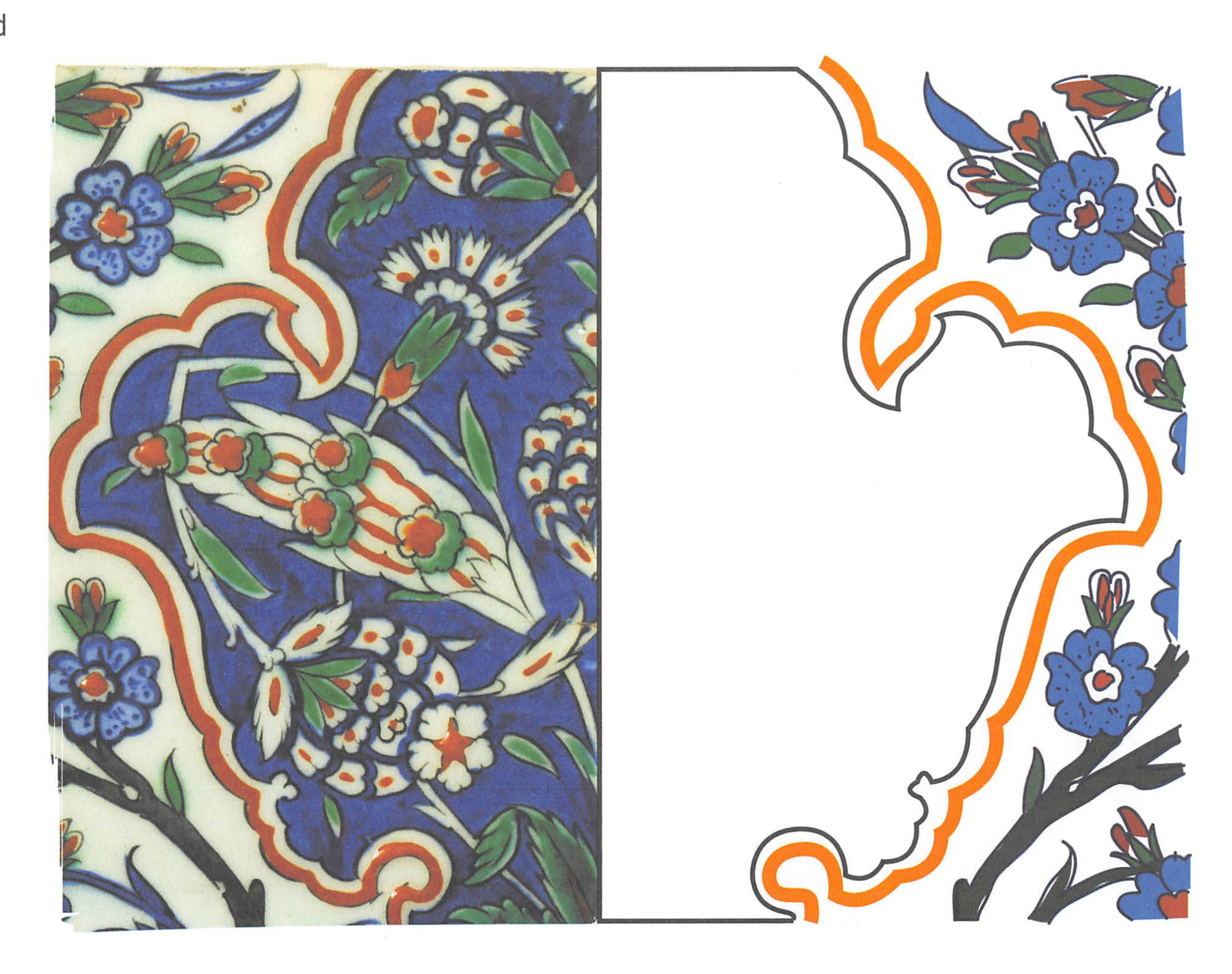
Attributed to Aqa Mirak

Iran
c.1525-1535
Opaque watercolour, ink and gold on paper
MS.7.2006

Go To Gallery 6: Pattern

Complete the rest of the pattern

Repetition of designs is common in Islamic art. Patterns are usually arranged symmetrically, so one side is a mirror image of the other. Look at these artefacts with your magnifying glass and draw the designs.



Tile panel

Turkey (Iznik)
c.1565
Fritware, underglaze painting
TI.1.1997

Draw a Symmetrical Pattern

Look for an object that shows a hunting scene. Animal patterns are widely used in Islamic Art. Design a symmetrical pattern and draw you own carpet.



Carpet (known as 'The animal Ardabil')

Iran
16th century
Wool, silk, silver wrapped silk thread
CA.43.2002

Go To Gallery 7: Pattern in Art

Colour in

Islamic artists combined vegetal patterns with other decorative motifs such as calligraphy and geometric designs to adorn mosques, buildings and objects. The arabesque was a particularly popular pattern in the Islamic world. The arabesque is a design derived from palmettes and half-palmettes connected by stems.

Look for this artefact.





Mosaic tile panel

Iran (Ishfahan)
c.1480
Fritware, coloured glazes
PO.318.2004

Follow the Maze

Look for this artefact.
Find your way around
this maze



Belt buckle

Spain (Granada)
14th century
Gold, enamels
JE.210.2008

Go To Galleries 8-9: Science in Art

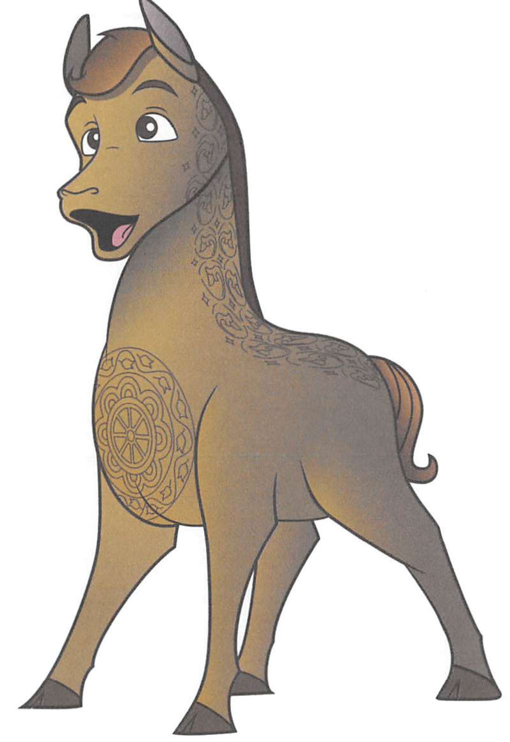
Colour in

The Arabs inherited the valuable scientific knowledge of the ancient Middle East, Greece, Persia and India. Scientists of the Islamic world made significant discoveries in mathematics, medicine, astronomy, engineering and other scientific fields.

The origins of the astrolabe are found in ancient Greece. The Arabic word for astrolabe, asturlab, is derived from the Greek word meaning ‘taker of the stars’. It was widely used and developed in the Muslim world. It served as a calculation instrument. One of its principal uses was to determine prayer times and the direction of Mecca.



Look for an artefact made by Mahmud ibn Jalal ibn Ja’far al-Asturlabi. Copy the script around the rim of the astrolabe





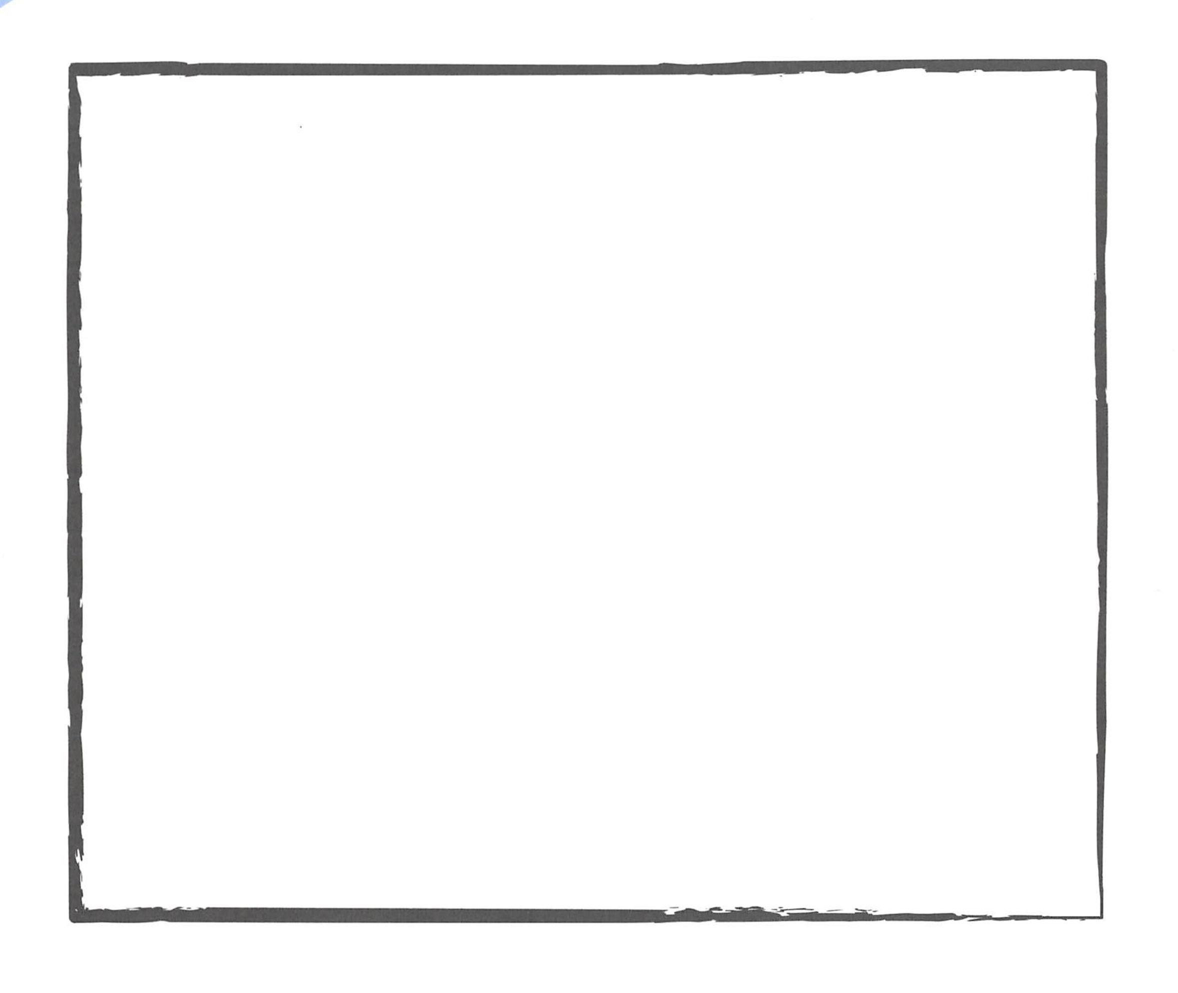
Made by Mahmud ibn Jalal ibn Ja’far al-Asturlabi
Iran
833 A.H. (1429 A.D.)
Brass with silver inlay
MW.341.2007



Draw a Celestial Globe

Look at this artefact and draw it in the box

Astronomers in the Islamic world invented an artefact called a celestial globe. It was used for studying the movement of the sun and the stars.



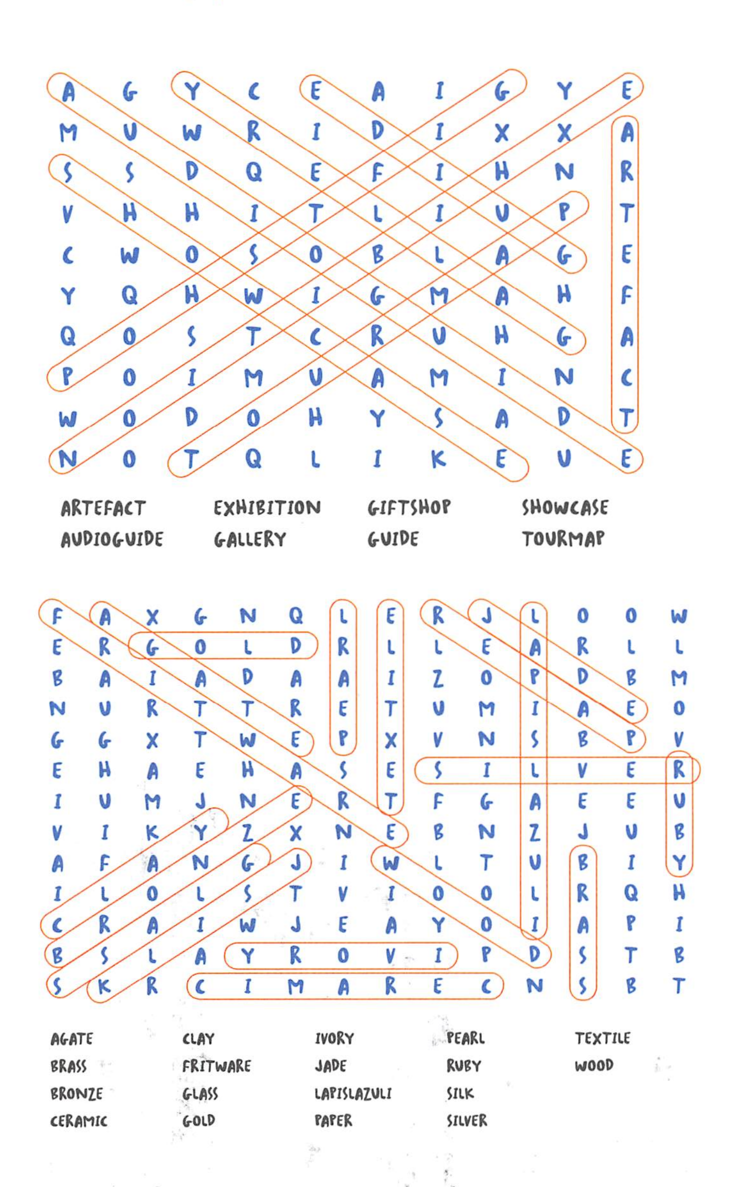


Celestial Globe

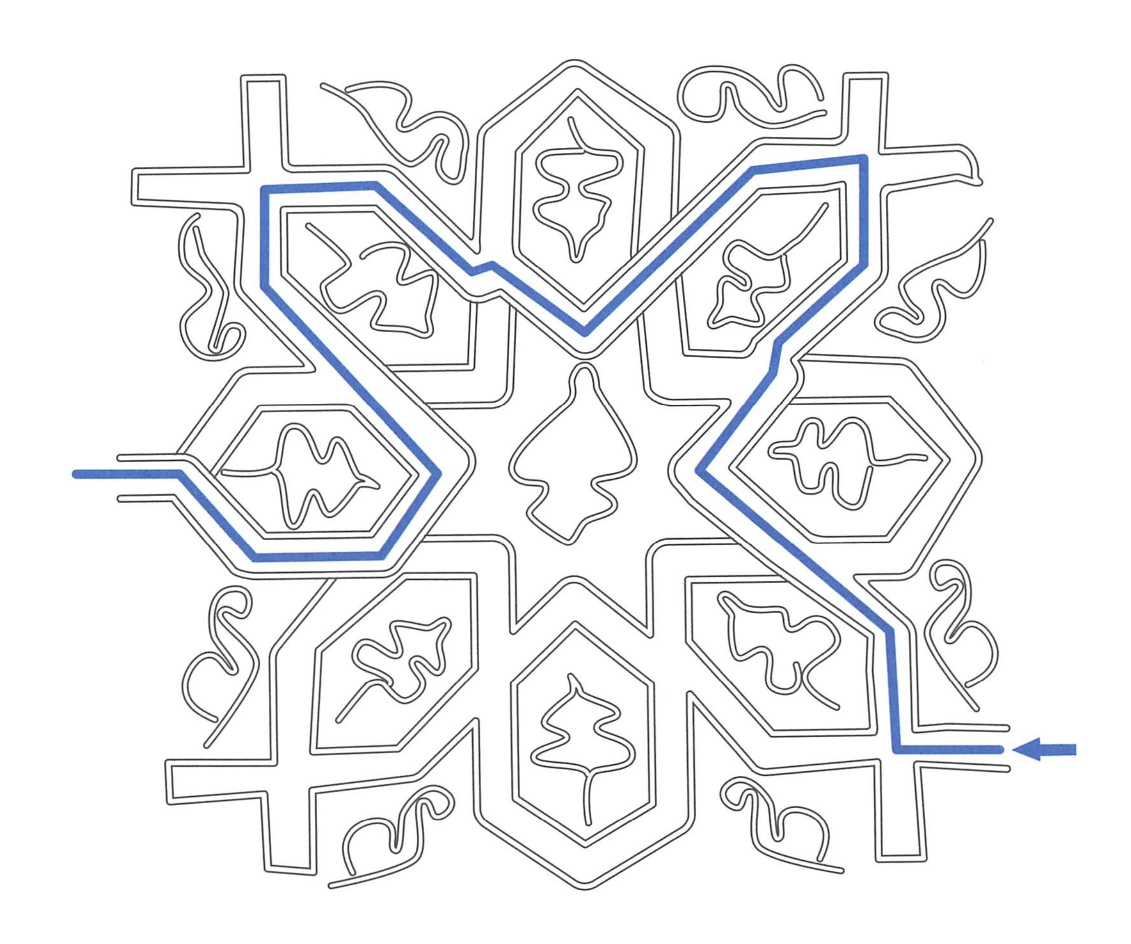
India
17th century
Brass
MW.330.2007

Solutions

Hidden words



Follow the maze



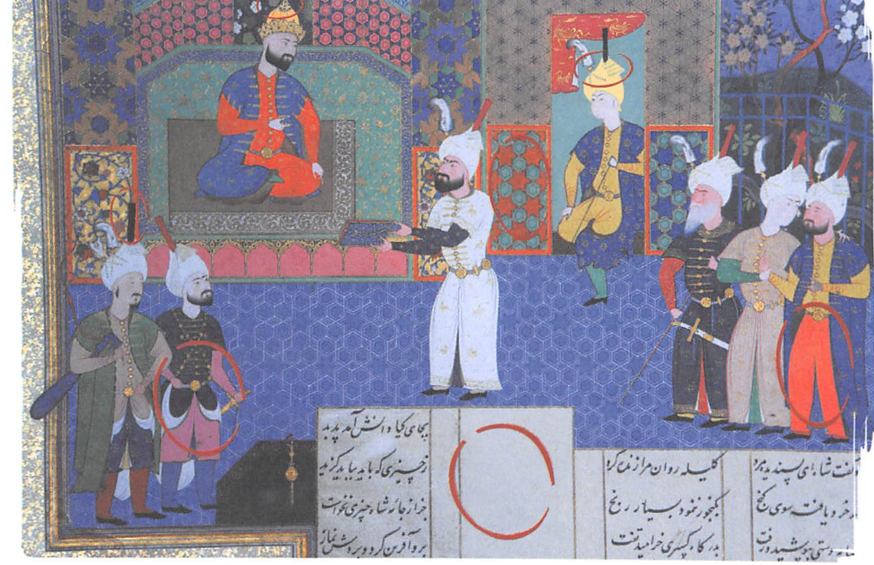
Object label

Jade Pendant

India
Dated 1401 AH
(1631 -1632 AD)
Jade
JE.85.2002

Spot the difference





Notes




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